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# THE FORUM

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Mrs. J. C. McClain.

Who read the leading paper at the Lincoln celebration last Monday at St. Paul A. M. E. Church. Mrs. McClain is too well known and her ability has long since been established, but for this masterly production, full of eloquence, historical research and logic, she is worthy of special commendation. She held the vast audience in rapture for nearly one hour and the last was the best.

## THE "SMART SET"

At Majestic, Thursday, February 23. For variety and dissimilitude of situations, novelties, surprises, electrical effects and scenic adornment, the three-act musical comedy, "His Honor the Barber," which will be presented by the popular "Smart Set" Company at Majestic Theatre Thursday, matinee and night, is said to eclipse any similar entertainment offered to the public in years. In point of fun and spontaneous humor no production can compare with it, if commendatory press notices and large and enthusiastic audiences are any criterion. At the head of the company is D. H. Dudley, who is fast earning the reputation of being one of America's foremost colored comedians. If Mr. Dudley, as Raspberry Snow, a shiftless and matter-of-fact coon, whose lofty aspirations lead him into all sorts of trouble, falls to make one laugh in spite of oneself, it is because it is that one of a saturnine and melancholy disposition. Raspberry dominates the entire performance. However, there is a supporting company of sixty talented people with a capable singing and dancing chorus, who form a delightful background for the star. Edwin Hanford contributed the book and Messrs. Brim, Smith and Burris furnished the lyrics and music. There are fifteen original numbers, and Mr. Hanford in his book has devised plenty of side-splitting situations, features and complications. Messrs. Barton and Wiswell, who are directing Mr. Dudley's tour this season, have not overlooked any detail and a splendid and enjoyable performance is assured. The costumes are from plates furnished by William H. Brown. Aida Overton Walker, the famous dancer and singing comedienne, is a valuable addition to the company this season. Miss Walker contributes a specialty said to be unique in every detail besides being prominently conspicuous in the funmaking.

## Banquet Tendered Maj. Brooks.

Quite an elaborate banquet was tendered Major Brooks, of the National Guard of Washington, D. C., by the young men of the city on last Saturday evening at the Masonic Hall.

Major Brooks was with the Presidential party. There were 40 invited and 35 were present and seated at the table. Major Otis B. Duncan presided and made a short but able introductory speech. Those responding to the toast were: Col. John R. Marshall, of Chicago; Capt. R. A. Byrd, Lieuts. Ross and Hinton, Capt. W. I. Hodge, Corporal Perkins and Major Brooks, the honoree.

The repast, which was served by G. E. Ousley, consisted of four courses, and was sumptuous and delicious. Each person present wore an exquisite badge with the photos of Major Duncan and Col. Marshall and the names of each person printed thereon. The affair was a success.

## Senator Root Right.

Our contemporary, the Illinois State Register, tries to take issue with Senator Root, of New York, on the question of the election of United States Senators by a direct vote. The Register says Root is attempting to bring the race question in for prejudicial purposes. Root is doing no such thing. The trouble is: They have already brought the race question in in disguise, and Root is wise enough to see it. Hon. Edward D. Green, of our own Legislature, was on the same day simultaneous-

ly taking the same stand as did Mr. Root.

The Register praised Mr. Root for what he (Root) said against Lorimer, but when Root had the courage, like Sumner and Garrison and Beecher and the rest, to rise in the Congress of the United States and defend the Constitution as he saw it, the Register insinuates that his motives are questionable. "O tempora, O mores."

## WITH THE SICK.

Mrs. Ollie Berry is still confined to her home with illness.

Mr. William Florville is able to be up.

Mrs. Thos. Richardson is slowly improving.

Master Alvester McCullough is undergoing treatment, having fallen on the school playground and broken his arm.

Rosecoe Singleton is sustaining a fractured arm as the result of a fall from the school stairway.

Mr. Wm. Cansler is still a member of the sick list.

## Bad Conduct at Churches.

For some time there has been going on in this city at several well-known colored churches, conduct by young boys and girls unbecoming heathens and semi-savages. The cause is obvious. The fault lies somewhere—there is an effect, and a bad effect. The people have begun to complain. Strangers in the city were overheard by the writer to make this expression: "We have not been to a church in Springfield that order was maintained. We can't hear nor enjoy a sermon." See, the church that tolerates this obstreperousness is getting the "black eye," not the boys and girls who carry on this noise. It is an outrage and the parents and the leaders of the churches where it goes on are to blame and they are the ones that must surely suffer.

## Card of Thanks.

Mrs. Charles Brown and family wishes to thank the friends and the Central Lodge for their kindness and attendance during the illness and death of her husband. MRS. CHARLES BROWN, Fifteenth Street.

## An Open Letter.

Springfield, Ill., Feb. 3, 1911. Mr. Editor: The commission form of government, soon to be inaugurated in the city of Springfield, is as yet an unknown quantity, none of us know what good or ill it may work for us as a people. If it is a good thing, let us make it better by electing that excellent citizen, Attorney Chas. S. Gibbs, and thereby have a friend at court. Mr. Gibbs deserves this honor at our hands. He is forceful in argument, broad minded, and a representative man of the race, and combines every attribute requisite for the position. Let us therefore select any of the others we may desire to vote for, but be sure to vote for Chas S. Gibbs. GEO. W. FORD.

## NOTES ON RACIAL PROGRESS

As Reported By the National Negro Business League.

Richmond, Virginia, has an up-to-date shoe store owned and operated by colored persons. This is the Capital Shoe and Supply Company. Four salesmen and one saleslady are employed. A well-assorted and high-grade stock of goods and polite, courteous and competent service is the company's slogan. The value of advertising is recognized by carrying a full page advertisement in the Richmond Planet. The officers of the company are R. T. Hill, president; W. A. Saunders, vice-president.

The Southern Aid Society, Incorporated, of Virginia, with headquarters at Richmond, is one of the most substantial and progressive negro insurance companies in the country. At Richmond, Petersburg, Portsmouth, Newport News and Norfolk the company owns two good two-story brick office buildings, each of which is worth several thousand dollars.

## Negro is Member of American Bankers' Association.

John Mitchell, Jr., President of the Mechanics' Savings Bank of Richmond, Va., enjoys this distinction. He regularly attends the annual meetings of the association and is always courteously treated by the white bankers. At the last session of the association, which met recently in Los Angeles, California, Mr. Mitchell distributed booklets describing the Mechanics' Savings Bank. This was the first time that many of the bankers had heard that there was a negro bank.

The Bonded Realty Company has recently been incorporated at Richmond, Virginia. The capital stock is \$10,000.00. This new corporation will buy and sell property and do a general real estate business. John Mitchell, Jr., is president of the company. H. F. Johnson, first vice-president, and Thomas H. Wyatt, manager.

## A Strong Negro Bank.

The Mechanics' Savings Bank of Richmond, Virginia, has, under the able management of its president, John Mitchell, Jr., become one of the strongest financial institutions controlled by negroes. The bank belongs to the American Bankers' Association. Its correspondents are the National Park Bank of New York, with ninety million dollars of deposits, and the National Bank of Richmond, with four million dollars of deposits. Within three months the gross resources of the Mechanics' Bank increased over twenty-five thousand dollars and the deposits increased over twenty thousand dollars. On September 1, 1910, the deposits amounted to \$153,056.19. On November 19, 1910, the deposits amounted to \$173,868.33. On September 1, 1910, the resources were \$188,826.19. On November 10, 1910, the resources were \$214,085.26.

There are 234 colored employees in the Customs Service at New York. They draw annually salaries aggregating \$35,000.00.

At Charlotte, North Carolina, the A. M. E. Zion Church has just erected at a cost of \$20,000 the Varick Memorial Building. In this building will be located the publishing house of the A. M. E. Zion denomination.

## Grand Musical Entertainment.

On Monday evening, February 27, there will be a high class recital at St. Paul's A. M. E. Church, assisted by the Prof. Choctel and Lembo. The entertainment will be given for the benefit of the trustee department. The program has been arranged and we present you the names of some of the participants:

Invocation—Rev. J. H. Sydes.  
Instrumental—Mrs. L. B. Lee.  
Voice—Mr. William Smith.  
Recitation—Mrs. Margarette Hubbard.  
Instrumental—Miss Ethel White.  
Reading—Miss Alice Walker.  
Voice—Miss Blossom Barton.  
Instrumental—Miss Zephra Sydes.  
Paper—Miss Ethel T. Adams.  
Instrumental—Miss Eloise Ford.  
Recitation—Mrs. E. L. Rogers.  
Voice—Mrs. Leota Alphons Gonzales.  
Instrumental—Miss India Harris.  
Rev. J. H. Sydes, pastor; Mrs. Alice White, manager; Mrs. M. Jackson, assistant manager. Admission, 15 cents.

## Mr. Thomas R. Thompson, Agent Federal Casualty Company.

Springfield, Ill., Feb. 15, 1911. My Dear Sir—I beg to inform you that I am in receipt of a ten dollar (\$10) check from the Federal Casualty Company for ten (10) days' partial disability, the result of a sprained ankle. I must confess that I was surprised to find that there were little or no red tape procedure on the part of the company in settling claims, also their promptness in doing so. You should feel proud in being the representative of such a company. I shall be pleased to recommend the Federal Casualty to all whom I find in need of an accident policy. Wishing you success, I am Gratefully yours, BENJ. H. LUCAS.

## Program for Y. M. C. A.

A good program will be rendered at the Y. M. C. A. tomorrow at 4 to 4:30 p. m. Religious topic from Acts discussed and quotations, 4:30 to 5 p. m. Addresses will be made by Rev. E. C. Cole and Mr. B. H. Bellamy. Last Sunday the discussion proved quite interesting. Music by the Y. M. C. A. Orchestra will be a feature. Men only invited.

## NEGRO SOLON OFFERS NEW RIOT PENALTY.

Representative Green, Who Wrote Mob Statute, Would Extend Law.

Representative Edw. D. Green, of Chicago, the only negro in the Legislature, is still after mobs and rioters. He is responsible for the stringent riot act now in force, but he is not satisfied with it. Today he offered an amendment which, should it be accepted by the Legislature, will make rioting an unprofitable business.

The present law of which Green is the author, provides that a sheriff may be removed from office by the Governor in case a prisoner in his custody has been seized by a mob and lynched. The sheriff of Alexander County was removed by Governor Deneen under this act and there have been threats that an effort would be made to repeal it.

## Stood Court Test.

The validity of the law has been attacked but it has stood the test in the higher court and repeal is the only method of getting it off the books.

So far from believing that he made a mistake in writing that law, however, Representative Green thinks that he did not go quite far enough. He made his law only include sheriffs.

The amendment offered today includes conservators of the peace, constables, coroners, etc.

In other words, if the amendment is accepted by the General Assembly, it will give the Governor power to remove a mayor, a chief of police, members of the City Council or any one else who does not do his duty in quelling a riot and preventing mob violence.

## Governor Has Sole Power.

Like the present law, the amendment gives the Governor the sole power. In case ten persons petition the Governor to take up the case he may make an investigation and he is the judge. If he decides the official should be ousted, there is no appeal.

The law also prohibits an official who has been ousted from an office on this ground ever again holding that office. — Evening News.

Representative Green is a thorough-going gentleman, fearless and ever ready to fight for what he considers right. He is always to the front for the rights of his people and is a good man for that position.

## The Lincoln Program.

The anniversary exercises for Abraham Lincoln were indeed an insurmountable overflow of matchless scholarship, and will long be remembered by the throng of people who were forced to usurp even the standing capacity of the aisles in St. Paul A. M. E. Church.

The aggregation of born orators who so eloquently depicted the illustrious deeds of the nation's immortal hero have well merited the concert of applause which still reverberates through the spacious galleries of Afro-Americanism. The paper of the evening was pronounced a masterpiece both in preparation and emphasis. And as

to the "class" of the vocalists we can but humbly bewail our sad inefficiency to adequately elaborate.

The management has now succeeded in establishing their executive ability as competent committeemen, so that hereafter strict conformity to any schedule regulations will be confidently expected.

## A Surprise Party.

The Household Ruth gave a surprise party on Mrs. Nannie Mottley of 1016 East Carpenter street Wednesday evening. Mrs. Mottley has been a faithful member of the lodge for over twenty-three years. She received quite a number of useful presents.

After a short talk by each of the members of the lodge refreshments were served.

## The Banquet at the Arsenal.

The one hundred and second birthday anniversary of Abraham Lincoln was celebrated last Saturday at the Arsenal in the shape of a banquet. President Taft was here and visited the historic places of the city. The decorations at the armory were surpassingly gorgeous. It was one of the finest things that was ever given here. There were 850 people served at the tables and 150 waiters to serve. It was indeed a gorgeous affair.

Mr. F. R. Wilkins of this city had the honor to serve at the President's table, and out of 150 waiters he was chosen for this specific purpose. Words are inadequate to express the magnificence and splendor displayed.

## Miss Leota Singleton Takes Nuptial Vows.

Married, on Tuesday, Feb. 14, at 8:30 p. m., at the residence of her mother, Mrs. Ollie Singleton, of 1212 South Fourteenth street, Miss Leota Singleton and Mr. Alonzo Gonzales. The marriage ceremony was said by Rev. Dr. Cottman, presiding elder of A. M. E. Conference. The bride was attended by Miss Nellie Banks, maid of honor, while Mr. Jas. Smith performed the duties of groomsmen. Only the immediate relatives were present.

Mrs. Leota Singleton-Gonzales has for a number of years made her home in this city, having moved here with her parents from Chicago, and her affable disposition and cultured manners have won to her cortege a throng of admiring friends. She is a vocalist of urgent demand, possessing a voice of beauteous and rare capacity. She graduated with honors from Lincoln School, and until this happy occasion was the chief hairdresser at the establishment of Green & Lewis. She is one of the most popular young brides to ever grace the marriage altar, and is a general favorite wherever known.

The groom bears ancestry from the sunny clime of Japan. He is a graduate of the San Francisco High School, and until the place was devastated by misfortune of the earthquake was a student at Berkeley College, in Berkeley, Cal. Besides his education in American classics he possesses the rare art of high social culture.

Mr. and Mrs. Gonzales will make their home, temporarily, in this city, and they have the best wishes of the Forum and Springfield for a successful and happy voyage upon the most silvery waves of the great sea of life.

## DAVID WILLIAMS.

The subject of this sketch, David Williams, was born a slave in southwest Missouri; came to Illinois in 1859; settled at Chatham, Sangamon County, and has become a successful and prominent farmer by close attention to business and careful management. In addition to regular oats, wheat and corn raising, he has for several years past been a wholesale shipper of "whole milk," sent daily to the Springfield Dairy Co., Springfield, Ill. He has now taken on the feeding of cattle and hogs and sent, on the 13th, a carload of finished 1,300 pound steers to



the Russell commission firm, Union Stock Yards, Chicago, and expects to have a carload of hogs ready to ship not later than June.

Mr. Williams is treated very courteously by the Chicago & Alton R. R. Co and the Illinois Traction Co., whose lines he ships over. He is a stockholder in the Chatham Elevator Co., one of the largest in central Illinois. He enjoys the confidence of the banks and the business community in general.

## Fruit Store.

With a delicious line of fresh oranges, apples and bananas daily. Fine cigars and tobacco. Sam. Puelo, 802 East Washington street.

## Another Benedicto Recital.

Those who were not privileged to attend the annual program of the Benedicto Musical Study Club in 1909 will be graciously remembered in this second and still greater attempt, and they thus tactfully avail this early date, through the agency of the Forum (the greatest advertising medium of the city) to make all due notification. In conjunction with them, the junior class will make their first appearance upon the grand arena of social worth, and we have every assurance from their press agent that this musical will not only eclipse the climax, but will soar still higher. She says that it will scale the elements.

# CHAS. E. WYATT

## For Commissioner

Should I be favored with the nomination, and be elected, it will be my earnest endeavor to serve the people in an honorable and business like way, giving my undivided attention to the affairs that come before me while in office.

I consider the office one of the most important in the gift of the people of this city, and sincerely assure them, if elected, to serve them with honor and ability.

# CHAS. E. WYATT